

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently amended). A process for the preparation of cross-linked polysaccharides wherein the cross-linking occurs through amide bonds between carboxy groups of the starting polysaccharides and amino groups of a polyamine in which the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronic acids, ~~carboxymethyldextran~~ carboxymethyldextran, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylstarch, alginic acids, cellulose acid, N-carboxy-methyl or butyl glucans or chitosans, heparins with different molecular weights, optionally ~~desulphated~~ desulphated and succinylated, dermatan sulphates, chondroitin sulphates and heparan sulphates comprising (a) activating the carboxy groups of the polysaccharide in an anhydrous aprotic solvent using a suitable carboxy activating agent; (b) reacting the carboxy activated polysaccharide with a polyamine selected from the group having the formula $R_1-NH-A-NH-R_2$ wherein R_1 and R_2 , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or benzyl groups; A is a C_2-C_{10} alkylene chain ~~which may be substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, alkoxy or amino groups;~~ a polyoxyalkylene chain of the formula $[(CH_2)_n-O-CH_2]_m$ wherein n is 2 or 3 and m is an interger from 2 to 10; a C_5-C_7 cycloalkyl group or an aryl or heteroaryl group; and (c) recovering the resultant cross-linked polysaccharide.

Claim 13 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 12 in which the carboxy-containing polysaccharide is a hyaluronic acid salified with a lipophilic cation; the solvent is selected from tetrahydrofuran, dimethylformamide or dimethyl sulfoxide; the carboxy activating agent is chloromethylpyridylum iodide and the polyamine is one in which A of the formula $R_1NH-A-R_2$ is a C_2-C_6 linear alkylene chain.

Claim 14 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 13 in which the polyamine, diluted in a like solvent as used in the activation step, is added to the solution of activated polysaccharide to effect the cross-linking reaction in 1-12 hours.

Claim 15 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 13 in which the recovered cross-linked polysaccharide is sulphated by reaction with a pyridine-sulfur trioxide complex.

Claim 16 (Previously added). A process according to Claim 13 in which the recovered cross-linked polysaccharide is complexed with a metal ion selected from zinc, copper and iron.

Claim 17 (Currently amended) A cross-linked polysaccharide prepared according to the process of Claim 12 ~~13 characterized by various properties and physical shapes suitable~~ for use in varying medical and veterinarian applications.